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## **Headland Writers Festival to Launch 2026 Program at New Sapphire Coast Cultural Venue**

Headland Writers Festival will officially launch its 2026 program on Friday June 27 at 7pm at the newly opened Headland Theatre in Tathra, marking an exciting new chapter for both the festival and the Sapphire Coast arts community.

The launch event will unveil the full 2026 festival program, alongside the opening of submissions to the 2026 Olga Masters Short Story Award- an annual literary prize celebrating stories about life in regional Australia.

Festival Director Myoung Jae Yi is confident the 2026 program is going to be another stellar line-up. “Headland Writers Festival 2026 is shaping up to be another exciting program and we’re delighted to officially launch this year’s program at the beautiful new Headland Theatre in Tathra.” said Yi. “Spaces like this are incredibly important for regional communities, and it’s wonderful to see the Sapphire Coast continue to grow its arts and cultural offering.”

The evening will also feature a special panel discussion with acclaimed authors Inga Simpson and Kate Liston-Mills, hosted by Gabbie Stroud. Together, the trio will explore the strength of short stories, and the transformative power of nature in storytelling.

“The launch event will be a wonderful opportunity for people to come together, get a first look at the 2026 program, and experience the kind of thoughtful and engaging conversations the festival is known for,” Yi said.

“We’re especially excited to be hosting a panel discussion featuring local authors Gabbie Stroud, Kate Liston-Mills, and Inga Simpson. It’s a fantastic opportunity for audiences to enjoy a taste of the conversations the festival loves to facilitate- conversations that spark ideas, foster connection, and celebrate storytelling in all its forms.”

The Olga Masters Short Story Award continues to honour the legacy of celebrated regional Australian writer Olga Masters, while providing writers with a valuable platform for recognition.

“The Olga Masters Short Story Award is a great opportunity for authors from across Australia to gain recognition and be part of the celebrated Australian tradition of regional and rural storytelling,” Yi said.

The launch event offers audiences an early glimpse into what promises to be another rich and engaging festival program, bringing together writers, readers and creatives from across Australia for a celebration of ideas, storytelling and regional culture.

**For media enquiries, interview requests or further information, please contact Festival Directors Myoung Jae Yi on 0408 718 219 or Kate Bradbury on 0429 909 447.**